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General Assembly

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United Nations Conference to Review Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
New York, 26 June-7 July 2006

Agenda

1. Opening of the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. Election of the President.
3. Statement by the President.
4. Address by the President of the General Assembly.
5. Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
6. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. Organization of work.
9. Election of officers other than the President.
10. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
    (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
    (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
11. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the Conference.
12. Submission of the report of the Preparatory Committee by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee.
13. General exchange of views.
14. Statements by participants other than States.
15. Adoption of the final documents of the Conference.
16. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly.

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New York, 26 June-7 July 2006

Rules of Procedure of the Conference

I. Representation and credentials

Composition of delegations
Rule 1

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Alternates and advisers
Rule 2

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Submission of credentials
Rule 3

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Credentials Committee
Rule 4

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its most recent session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

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Provisional participation in the Conference
Rule 5

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

II. Officers

Elections
Rule 6

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, 29 Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman for each of the Main Committees established in accordance with rule 46. These officers shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

General powers of the President
Rule 7

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these Rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these Rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The President, in the exercise of his function, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Acting President
Rule 8

1. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Replacement of the President
Rule 9

If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected.

Voting rights of the President
Rule 10

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

III. General Committee

Composition
Rule 11

The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairmen of the Main Committees shall constitute the General Committee. The President, or, in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him, shall serve as Chairman of the General Committee. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the General Committee.

Substitute members
Rule 12

If the President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, he may designate a member of his delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. In case of absence, the Chairman of a Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chairman of that Committee as his substitute. When serving on the General Committee, the Vice-Chairman of a Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if he is of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

Functions
Rule 13

The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of its work.

IV. Secretariat of the Conference

Duties of the Secretary-General of the Conference
Rule 14

1. The Secretary-General of the Conference shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.

2. The Secretary-General of the Conference may designate a member of the secretariat to act in his/her place at these meetings.

3. The Secretary-General of the Conference shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Duties of the secretariat
Rule 15

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these Rules:

(a) Interpret speeches made at meetings;

(b) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;

(c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;

(d) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;

(e) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings;

(f) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations; and

(g) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

Statements by the secretariat
Rule 16

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Conference, or any member of the secretariat designated by either for that purpose, may, at any time, make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

V. Opening of the Conference

Temporary President
Rule 17

The Secretary-General of the United Nations or, in his absence, the Secretary-General of the Conference shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

Decisions concerning organization
Rule 18

The Conference shall, to the extent possible, at its first meeting:

(a) Adopt its rules of procedure;

(b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;

(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall until such adoption be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

VI. Conduct of business

Quorum
Rule 19

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the representatives of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Speeches
Rule 20

1. No representative may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the

President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

Points of order
Rule 21

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these Rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Precedence
Rule 22

The Chairman or Rapporteur of a Main Committee, or the representative of a subcommittee or working group, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

Closing of the list of speakers
Rule 23

During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

Right of reply
Rule 24

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.

2. The statements made under this rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.

3. The representatives of a State may make no more than two statements under this rule at a given meeting on any item. The first shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes; representatives shall in any event attempt to be as brief as possible.

Adjournment of debate
Rule 25

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Closure of debate
Rule 26

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his/her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting
Rule 27

Subject to rule 38, a representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Order of motions
Rule 28

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Submission of proposals and substantive amendments
Rule 29

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General of the Conference, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to a decision no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated in all languages of the Conference to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though these amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Withdrawal of proposals and motions
Rule 30

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Decisions on competence
Rule 31

Subject to rule 28, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Reconsideration of proposals
Rule 32

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

VII. Decision-making

Rule 33

1. Every effort should be made to reach agreement on substantive matters by means of consensus. There should be no voting on such matters until all efforts to achieve consensus have been exhausted.

2. If, notwithstanding the best efforts of delegates to achieve a consensus, a matter of substance comes up for voting, the President shall defer the vote for 48 hours and, during this period of deferment, shall make every effort, with the assistance of the General Committee, to facilitate the achievement of general agreement, and shall report to the Conference prior to end of the period.

3. If by the end of the period of deferment the Conference has not reached agreement, voting shall take place in accordance with rule 35.

Voting rights
Rule 34

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.

Majority required
Rule 35

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Conference on all matters of substance shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting.

2. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

3. If the question arises as to whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"
Rule 36

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

Method of voting
Rule 37

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll-calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call. A representative may request a recorded vote which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

Conduct during voting
Rule 38

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

Explanation of vote
Rule 39

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

Division of proposals
Rule 40

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendments
Rule 41

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these Rules shall be considered as including amendments.

Order of voting on amendments
Rule 42

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

Order of voting on proposals
Rule 43

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case the original proposal shall be considered as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Elections
Rule 44

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or slate.

Rule 45

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes, shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled.

VIII. Subsidiary bodies

Main Committees
Rule 46

The Conference may establish Main Committees as required which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

Representation of the Main Committees
Rule 47

Each State participating in the Conference may be represented by one representative on each Main Committee established by the Conference. It may assign to these Committees such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Other committees and working groups
Rule 48

1. In addition to the committees referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

2. Each committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

Rule 49

1. The members of the committees and working groups of the Conference referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

2. Members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the committee in question, subject to the approval of that committee, unless the committee decides otherwise.

Officers
Rule 50

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

Quorum
Rule 51

1. The Chairman of a Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

2. A majority of the representatives of the General Committee or the Credentials Committee or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum.

Officers, conduct of business and voting
Rule 52

The rules contained in chapters II, VI (except rule 19) and VII above shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

(a) The Chairmen of the General and Credentials Committees and the chairmen of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote, and

(b) Decisions of committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

IX. Languages and records

Languages of the Conference
Rule 53

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Interpretation
Rule 54

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

Languages of official documents
Rule 55

Official documents of the Conference shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

Sound recordings of meetings
Rule 56

Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of any Main Committee shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the Main Committee concerned, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of any working group thereof.

X. Public and private meetings

General principles
Rule 57

1. The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of the Committee of the Whole[1] shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise.

2. Meetings of other organs of the Conference shall be held in private.

Communiqués on private meetings
Rule 58

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the body concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General of the Conference.

XI. Other participants and observers

Representatives of entities, intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices
Rule 59

Representatives designated by entities, intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Representatives of the specialized agencies
Rule 60

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

[1] The exact name of this subsidiary body is still to be determined.

Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations
Rule 61

Representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of interested United Nations organs
Rule 62

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations
Rule 63

With respect to the attendance of non-governmental organizations at the Conference, attendance will be open to:

(a) Relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996. These non-governmental organizations should inform the President of the Conference about their interest to attend;

(b) Other interested non-governmental organizations relevant and competent to the scope and the purpose of the Conference provided that requests to do so are submitted to the President of the Conference and are accompanied by information on the organization's purpose, programmes and activities in areas relevant to the scope of the Conference. The President of the Conference will subsequently provide the Conference with a list of these non-governmental organizations for consideration on a no-objection basis;

(c) Non-governmental organizations accredited through the process specified above may attend meetings of the Conference, other than those designated as closed;

(d) Representatives of accredited non-governmental organizations will be allowed to address the Conference during one meeting specifically allocated for this purpose. These meetings will not coincide with other meetings of the Conference;

(e) Accredited non-governmental organizations will be provided, upon request, with documents related to the Conference, and they may, at their own expense, provide material to the delegations, outside the conference room, in the area of the Conference;

(f) Arrangements concerning the accreditation and attendance of non-governmental organizations at the Conference shall in no way create a precedent for other United Nations conferences.

Written statements
Rule 64

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 59 to 63 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the language in which the statements are made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization is related to the work of the Conference and is on a subject in which the organization has a special competence. Written statements shall not be made at United Nations expense and shall not be issued as official documents.

XII. Suspension and amendment of the Rules of Procedure

Method of suspension
Rule 65

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24-hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Method of amendment
Rule 66

These Rules of Procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

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New York, 26 June-7 July 2006

Note verbale dated 29 June 2006 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation addressed to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations presents its compliments to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and requests that the attached text of the address of Mr. Mikhail T. Kalashnikov, Chief Firearms Designer, designer of the AK-47, President of the Union of Russian Armourers, consultant to the Director-General of the ROSOBORONEXPORT State Corporation, doctor of technical sciences and holder of the international title "Man of the Twentieth Century", should be circulated as an official Conference document to participants and guests.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 29 June 2006 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Address by Mikhail T. Kalashnikov, Chief Firearms Designer, designer of the AK-47 assault rifle, President of the Union of Russian Armourers, consultant to the Director-General of the ROSOBORONEXPORT State Corporation, doctor of technical sciences and holder of the international title "Man of the Twentieth Century" to participants and guests at the 2006 Review Conference on the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons

The problem that you have gathered here to discuss — the eradication of the illicit production of and trade in small arms and light weapons — is more pressing now than ever before. Thousands if not millions of peaceful citizens around the world are dying because of the uncontrolled use of these weapons. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has rightly called small arms and light weapons weapons of mass destruction.

It is a source of great sorrow for me that the assault rifle which I designed has produced many casualties. I myself fought and defended my country during the Great Patriotic War and was seriously wounded. I am no stranger to the pain of losing comrades in battle. But the tragedy of innocent lives lost at the hands of terrorists is beyond compare.

At this time in my country we are observing with grief and mourning a sad date, the 65th anniversary of the perfidious attack by fascist Germany on the Soviet Union. The Second World War was the bloodiest war in human history. In just under four years, the Soviet Union lost 28 million people. This is why I designed this reliable, effective and simple weapon — to defend the Motherland. During those difficult years, the technical groundwork was done for the construction of this unique weapon, which has gone down in the history of small arms and light weapons in Russia and the world over as the AK-47 7.62 mm assault rifle.

The armies of some 50 countries now use various versions of my assault rifle. I fervently hope that this weapon will always be used in the service of peace, security, honour and justice. Indeed, I am happy to know that in many countries around the world babies are named Kalash as a symbol of liberty won in the struggle for independence and democracy. But at the same time it pains me to see that various counterfeits bearing my name are falling into the hands of terrorists and thugs with increasing frequency.

During the 60 years that the AK has been in existence, nearly 100 million have been produced. But only one tenth of this mighty arsenal has been produced legally. All the others are pirated models and unlicensed imitations. I believe that the culprits here are unscrupulous entrepreneurs, who, in violation of both law and conscience, produce pirated copies of Kalashnikov assault rifles and machine guns, and cynical businessmen who sell these weapons to all and sundry. Nor do I

exonerate those politicians whose short-sightedness has resulted in the uncontrolled proliferation of counterfeit small arms and light weapons the world over.

In this connection, I wish to emphasize once again that the way to guard against this unregulated situation is to have a strict system of accounting and national markings for each unit produced, with mutually accepted systems of marking and information-sharing. In my view, this is a realistic, effective and low-cost way to solve the problem.

The end-user certificate is also of great importance, as it defines clearly to whom, in what quantity, on what terms and for what purpose the arms are being supplied, and stipulates their non-transfer to third parties.

Finally, it is necessary to establish national control over small arms and light weapons and take concrete measures to strengthen and enhance the relevant national laws and regulations. In no way does this diminish the importance of bilateral, regional and global efforts. Moreover, as a small arms designer, I am not indifferent to compliance with intellectual property rights for my weapons.

Alfred Nobel made his greatest discovery when he invented dynamite. However, at the will of politicians, this invention brought death to millions of human beings. It now appears that history is repeating itself, this time with small arms and light weapons. I call on you to demonstrate wisdom. Recall what the ancients said: "*Si vis pacem, para bellum*" (If you want peace, prepare for war). This truth has never yet been disproved in all the centuries of human civilization. May weapons become a way to protect peace, rights and democracy, rather than a tool of terror.

(*Signed*) Mikhail **Kalashnikov**

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United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

New York, 26 June-7 July 2006

Note by the Secretariat

The secretariat of the Conference would like to bring to the attention of the members of the Conference the Declaration of the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean States for the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (Declaration of Antigua, Guatemala) contained in the annex to document A/60/876.

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Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
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Credentials of representatives to the Conference

Report of the Credentials Committee

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 26 June 2006, the Conference, in accordance with rule 4 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee having the same composition as the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its sixtieth regular session, consisting of the following Member States: Cameroon, China, Panama, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Russian Federation and United States of America.

2. The Credentials Committee held its meeting on 29 June 2006.

3. Mr. Ricardo Alberto Arias (Panama) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General of the Conference, dated 29 June 2006, concerning the credentials of representatives of the States participating in the Conference. A representative of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement in which he, inter alia, updated the memorandum, indicating credentials and communications received subsequent to its preparation.

5. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the memorandum and the related statement, formal credentials of representatives to the Conference, in the form required by rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, had been submitted by the following 72 States: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia,

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Slovenia, South Africa, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago and Zambia.

6. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the memorandum and the related statement, information concerning the appointment of representatives of States to the Conference had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference by means of a facsimile communication from the Head of State or Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs or by means of a letter or note verbale from the permanent mission concerned by the following 55 States: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Oman, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

7. As indicated in paragraph 3 of the memorandum and the related statement, the following 66 States participating in the Conference have not made any communication to the Secretary-General of the Conference regarding their representatives: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Somalia, Spain, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen.

8. The Chairman recommended that the Committee accept the credentials of the representatives of all States mentioned in the memorandum of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the States referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 above would be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference as soon as possible.

9. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee adopted the following draft resolution:

The Credentials Committee,

Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects of the States referred to in the memorandum of the Secretary-General of the Conference dated 29 June 2006,

Taking into account the statements made during the debate,

Accepts the credentials of the representatives of the States concerned.

10. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted without a vote.

11. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee recommend to the Conference the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 13 below). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

12. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the Conference.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

13. The Credentials Committee recommends to the Conference the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the Conference

The Conference,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.